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P2bgs Snowriders
1987 Snowmobile Trail
System

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BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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Montana Snowmobile Grant Program

PEIS REVIEW PROCESS

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Award the Big Sky Snowriders trail system a grant to continue grooming the existing trails and roads designated as snowmobile use.
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** State of Montana statutes that relate to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Chapter 2, Part 1 statutes relating to Recreation: MCA 23-2-101, and Part 6 statutes relating to snowmobiling: MCA 23-2-106 to 23-2-656.
State of Montana statutes that relate to Montana Environmental Policy Act: MCA 75-1-101 to 75-1-1112.
3. **Name of Project** Big Sky Snowriders Trail System.
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**
Big Sky Snowriders, P.O. Box 365, Livingston, MT, 59047
5. **If Applicable: Estimated Construction/Commencement Date** Trail Grooming, December 1 through March 31
Estimated Completion Date: Ongoing
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): Ongoing
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**
Park County - T5N, R10E; , T3N, R10E; T6S, R10E; T7S, R6E
Gallatin National Forest, Livingston District
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently: Groomed trail located on approximately (96) miles of existing roads and trails.**

(a) Developed: residential <u>0</u> acres industrial <u>0</u> acres	(d) Floodplain <u>0</u> acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation <u>0</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland <u>0</u> acres dry cropland <u>0</u> acres forestry <u>0</u> acres rangeland <u>0</u> acres other <u>0</u> acres
© Wetlands/Riparian Areas <u>0</u> acres	
8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 ½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**
(SEE ATTACHED)

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The proposed action is to award a Montana State Snowmobile Program Grant to the Big Sky Snowriders Snowmobile Club, for the purpose of grooming the existing groomed trail system, identified on the attached map.

This document is tied to the Montana Snowmobile Grant Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), of which Alternative Three was selected and states: "the continuation of the current program with modifications." These modifications require an environmental review document be prepared by FWP for each grant application, unless projects are classified as categorical exclusions.

This environmental assessment addresses only the snowmobile trails located on lands of the Gallatin National Forest, Livingston Ranger District, Park County roads.

A Multi-Party Agreement was updated in 1993 for those existing snowmobile trails established on existing roads and trails. The agreement will be affective until one party calls for the termination of the agreement or there is a change in the current situation.

By completing the Snowmobile Grant Program PEIS in 1993, FWP complied with its statutory responsibility for the action of: Administration of state funds, as grants to grooming project sponsors for the maintenance of designated trail routes.

The site specific analysis is the responsibility of the land management agency. The U.S. Forest Service has completed this analysis in the Gallatin Forest Plan and determined that existing federal roads and trails are categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In 1992, the Washington Office of the Forest Service issued amendment 1909.15-92-1 to FSH 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook. This amendment clarified categorical exclusions. One item clarified was grooming. This amendment lists those categories which,

"At the discretion of the responsible official, a project or case file and a decision memo are not required but may be prepared for categories of actions set forth in sections 21.1a and 31.1b." (Section 31.1)

Section 31.1b lists those categories established by the Chief as,

"....categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA unless scoping indicates extraordinary circumstances exist."

Listed under Item 31.1b is item 4.d,

"Pruning vegetation and cleaning culverts along a trail and grooming the surface of the trail."

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Gallatin National Forest, Livingston District	Multi-Party Agreement	1993
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Annual Project Agreement	1996

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region Three 1400 S. 19th Bozeman, MT 59715	\$ 4,000

© Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Grant Management
Gallatin National Forest, Livingston District	Land Management Agency

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the PEIS Review Process:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Gallatin National Forest, Livingston District
Montana Resource Information System



Environmental Review Criteria
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Snowmobile Grant Program

Proposals for grants allocated under the Montana Snowmobile Grant Program shall be reviewed in accordance with the following Environmental Review Criteria. Environmental review on existing funded snowmobile trails will be completed as expeditiously as possible with the Department setting priorities and attempting to complete environmental review first for those funded trails located in the more environmentally sensitive areas. In no case will an existing trail, not in full compliance within three years, continue to be funded under the Grant Program. In some cases, proposed projects may be determined by the Department to be categorically excluded from the environmental review process. A categorical exclusion may be denied if the Department determines that special circumstances warrant further environmental review. Such circumstances include those where use of the trail may individually, collectively or cumulatively cause significant environmental impacts. If a project satisfies number 1 below, the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion.

1. Continuation of an existing program with no on-ground changes and that has previously satisfied MEPA reviews.

Projects that do not satisfy number 1, but do satisfy numbers 2 through 7, qualify for a categorical exclusion.

2. Snowmobile trail on federal lands is already incorporated in U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management travel plan and Multi-Party Agreement has been signed.
3. Fish, Wildlife and Parks wildlife clearance has been obtained.
4. Snowmobile Project Agreement has been signed by sponsor and Department.
5. Project is on existing roadway or previously ungroomed, but authorized by the land management agency, snowmobile trail.
6. Development or improvements on federal lands have already satisfied NEPA.
7. Trail is not in a wilderness study area or designated non-motorized area.

If the proposed project does not meet the requirements necessary for a categorical exclusion it must be reviewed in accordance with the Environmental Review Criteria identified below:

When reviewing projects within the checklist that result in a request for additional information, three subsequent requests for the same information will result in a denial of the project, or that portion of the project if it is a stand alone component.

Prior to making a final determination that a new or substantially changed application satisfies the criteria for a categorical exclusion, the Department will provide thirty calendar days for public review and comment.



**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 1 Administration	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	1	Does map clearly identify proposed activities (i.e. trails, parking lots, etc.)?	Y	Go to #2	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
	Decision memo and env. document from land mgmnt agency	2	Do any proposed activities occur on lands managed by another agency?	Y	Go to #2a	YES
				N	Go to #3	
		2a	Did the land mgmnt agency prepare an env. document?	Y	Go to #2b	YES
				N	Go to #3	
		2b	Was the decision memo supplied with application?	Y	Go to #4	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
	Internal environmental review document	3	Does the proposal include operation and maintenance projects?	Y	Go to #3b	YES
				N	Go to #3a	
		3a	Does the proposal include expansion or construction of trails or facilities	Y	Go to #3b	NO
				N	Go to #4	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		3b Has checklist EA been prepared	Y	Go to #3c	NO
			N	Request Submittal	
		3c Does the checklist EA satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	YES
			N	Go to #3d	
		3d Has an EA been prepared?	Y	Go to #3e	N/A
			N	Request EA	
		3e Did the EA satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	N/A
			N	Go to #3f	
		3f Has an EIS been prepared?	Y	Go to #3g	N/A
			N	Request EIS	
		3g Did EIS satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	N/A
			N	Request Proposal	
		3h Did applicant supply decision notice?	Y	Go to #4	N/A
			N	Request Submittal	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
	Licenses, Leases, permits, clearances, etc.	4 Has applicant supplied appropriate copies required by other agencies?	Y	Go to #6	YES
			N	Request Submittal	
Issue 2 Air Quality	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	6 Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #6a	YES
			N	Request Submittal	
		6a Does proposal include expansion of existing or construction of new trails?	Y	Go to #6b	NO
			N	Go to #7	
	Connection to other trails or trail systems	6b Does the expanded or new trail connect with another trail system or trail?	Y	Go to #7	N/A
			N	Go to #7	
	Public awareness plan	7 Has applicant submitted a public awareness plan?	Y	Go to #9	YES
			N	Request Submittal	
Issue 3 Topography, Soils, Hydrology	Map identifying proposed trail or facilities	9 Does the map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #9a	YES
			N	Request Submittal	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		9a Are there areas of known insufficient snowcover along proposed trails?	Y	Go to #9b	NO
			N	Go to #9c	
		9b Are areas of known insufficient snowcover identified on the maps?	Y	Go to #9c	N/A
			N	Request Submittal	
		9c Are there areas characterized by summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #9d	NO
			N	Go to #10	
		9d Are areas of known wet meadows identified on the map?	Y	Go to #9e	N/A
			N	Request Submittal	
		9e Have viable alternatives around areas of known insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows been identified?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #10	N/A
			N	Request Submittal	
	Avoidance	10 Has applicant submitted a plan for avoidance of areas of known insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #10a	NO See Commnet
			N	Request Plan	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		10a Does the plan identify specific measures for each area identified on the map?	Y	Go to #11	NO See Comment
			N	Request Specifics	
	Seasonal Restrictions	11 Does the proposal include stream crossings?	Y	Go to #11a	YES
			N	Go to #12	
		11a Does the proposed stream crossing utilize an existing structure?	Y	Go to #12	YES
			N	Go to #11b	
		11b Are there viable alternatives to crossing the stream that would utilize existing structures?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #12	N/A
			N	Go to #11c	
		11c Is construction of temporary crossing structures viable in the proposed crossing location?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #12	N/A
			N	Reject	
	Public Awareness Plan	12 Has applicant submitted a public awareness plan?	Y	Go to #13	YES
			N	Request Submittal	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 4 Wildlife	Map identifying proposed activities	13 Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #13a	YES
			N	Request Submittal	
		13a Are there known ungulate wintering areas in the vicinity of proposed trails?	Y	Go to #13b	NO
			N	Go to #14	
		13b Are there ungulate wintering areas identified on the map?	Y	Go to #13c	N/A
			N	Request Submittal	
		13c Do proposed trails remain on the periphery of winter ranges?	Y	Go to #13f	N/A
			N	Go to #14	
		13d Does proposed trail pass through wintering areas?	Y	Go to #13e	N/A
			N	Go to #13h	
		13e Is there a viable alternate route available for use?	Y	Go to #13f	N/A
			N	Reject	
	Avoidance	13f Is the trail length along the periphery of the wintering area the least possible?	Y	Go to #13g	N/A
			N	Revise Plan	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		13g	Was vegetative screening used whenever possible?	Y	Go to #13h	N/A
				N	Revise to utilize veg screen	
		13h	Has signing plan been proposed to keep snowmobilers from disturbing wintering ungulates?	Y	Go to #14	N/A
				N	Request Plan	
	Seasonal Restrictions	14	Are there ungulate wintering areas in grizzly bear habitat?	Y	Go to #14a	NO
				N	Go to #15	
		14a	Are there proposed trails near these areas?	Y		NO
				N		
	Idle Zones	15	Are there known bald eagle nests or grizzly hibernation areas?	Y	Go to #15a	NO
				N	Go to #15d	
		15a	Are trails proposed near any of these sites?	Y	Go to #15b	NO
				N	Go to #15d	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		15b Are viable alternatives identified that avoid these areas?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #15d	N/A
			N	Go to #15c	
		15c Have idle zones been proposed for these areas?	Y	Go to #15d	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #15d	
		15d Has the Natural Heritage wildlife list for the proposed region been submitted (NRIS - State library)?	Y	Go to #15e	YES
			N	Request Submittal	
		15e Does the Natural Heritage list identify any rare or endangered wildlife species in the area of the proposal?	Y	Go to #15f	YES See Commnet
			N	Go to #16	
		15f Has applicant submitted an avoidance or seasonal restriction plan or other appropriate mitigative measures for these areas?	Y	Go to #16	YES See Commnet
			N	Request Submittal	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
	Signing	16	Have signing strategies been proposed to identify idle zones?	Y	Go to #17	NO See Commnet
				N	Stipulate - Go to #17	
	Public awareness plan	17	Has a public awareness plan been established?	Y	Go to #18	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #18	
	Clearance Oversight	18	Did applicant supply info and wildlife clearance with application?	Y	Go to #19	YES
				N	Request	
Issue 5 Vegetation	Maps identifying proposed trails and facilities	19	Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #19a	YES
				N	Request	
		19a	Is the proposed trail/facility located entirely on an existing road or trail?	Y	Go to #20	YES
				N	Go to #19b	
		19b	Have existing roads been used whenever possible?	Y	Go to #19c	N/A
				N	Stipulate - Go to #19c	
		19c	Does all or a portion of trails occur on a vegetated road or trail?	Y	Go to #19e	N/A
				N	Go to #19d	

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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		19d Does all or a portion of proposed activity occur on undeveloped land?	Y	Go to #19e	N/A
			N	Go to #20	
		19e Has the Natural Heritage vegetation list for the proposed region been submitted (NRIS - State Lib)?	Y	Go to #19f	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to 19f	
		19f Does the Natural Heritage list identify any rare or endangered plant species?	Y	Go to #19g	N/A
			N	Go to #20	
		19g Are any species on the list common in alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19h	N/A
			N	Go to #19j	
		19h Do any proposed trails that are not on existing roads cross alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19i	N/A
			N	go to #19j	
		19i Are there alternatives to crossing the alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19j	N/A
			N	Reject	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		19j Do any proposed activities involve areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #19k	N/A
			N	Go to #20	
		19k Are there viable alternatives to avoid areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #20	N/A
			N	Go to #19l	
		19l Has applicant submitted an avoidance or seasonal restriction plan for areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #20	N/A
			N	Request - Go to #20	
	Monitoring for noxious weeds	20 Are noxious weeds present within the trail area, particularly in staging areas?	Y	Go to #20a	NO
			N	Go to #21	
		20a Has noxious weed plan been proposed in application?	Y	Go to #20b	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #20b	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 6 Socioeconomics		20b	Has monitoring plan been proposed to survey vegetation damage and spread of noxious weeds?	Y	Go to #21	N/A
				N	Stipulate - Go to #21	
	Public Awareness	21	Has a public awareness strategy been proposed?	Y	Go to #22	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #22	
	Planning	22	Does the application include organized events or promotional activities that would utilize funded trails?	Y	Go to #22a	YES See Commnet
				N	Go to #23	
		22a	Does application include projected number of trail users generated by the events?	Y	Go to #22b	YES See Commnet
				N	Request - Go to #22b	
		22b	Does application include a public safety plan for the events?	Y	Go to #22c	YES See Commnet
				N	Stipulate - Go to #22c	
		22c	Has applicant identified additional employment requirements during event?	Y	Go to #23	YES See Commnet
				N	Request - Go to #23	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 7 Cultural	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	23 Has map identifying proposed trails or facilities been submitted?	Y	Go to #23a	YES
			N	Request - Go to #23a	
		23a Is entire proposed trail/facility located within an existing road or trail?	Y	Go to #24	YES
			N	Go to #23b	
		23b Does all or a portion of the proposed trail/facility occur on a historic road or trail?	Y	Go to #23d	N/A
			N	Go to #23c	
		23c Does all or a portion of the proposed trail/facility occur on an undeveloped land?	Y	Go to #23d	N/A
			N	Go to #24	
		23d Do viable alternative routes exist that could utilize existing roads or trails?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #24	N/A
			N	Go to #23e	
	Site specific treatment	23e Was SHPO consulted for determination of need for cultural resource investigation?	Y	Go to #23f	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #23f	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 8 Safety/Private Property		23f Was a cultural resource investigation conducted?	Y	Go to #23g	N/A
			N	Inquire as to why	
		23g Were significant sites found?	Y	Go to #23h	N/A
			N	Go to #24	
		23h Were adequate mitigations applied (i.e. reroute, etc.)?	Y	Go to #23i	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #23i	
	Public awareness plan	23i Is a public awareness strategy proposed?	Y	Go to #24	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #24	
		24 Does map clearly identify proposed activities	Y	Go to #24a	YES
			N	Request - Go to #24a	
		24a Does application include proposal for signing strategy identifying locations for warning signs?	Y	Go to #24b	YES See Commnet
			N	Stipulate - Go to #24b	
		24b Have private properties along proposed trails been identified?	Y	Go to #24c	YES See Commnet
			N	Request - Go to #24c	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
	Avoidance	24c	Do viable alternatives exist that avoid private property?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25	NO
				N	Go to #24d	
	Signing and public awareness	24d	Has applicant included a strategy for signing and public awareness re: private property?	Y	Go to #25	YES See Comment
				N	Stipulate - Go to #25	
Issue 9 Wilderness Areas	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	25	Do maps identify proposed trail locations?	Y	Go to #25a	YES
				N	Request - Go to #25a	
		25a	Are proposed trails located near wilderness boundary or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Go to #25b	YES See Comment
				N	Go to #25e	
	Trail location strategies	25b	Is there heavy vegetative cover or topographic features between proposed trail and wilderness boundary /designated non-motorized area?	Y	Go to #25e	YES See Comment
				N	Go to #25c	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		25c Do viable alternatives exist that would utilize vegetative screening between wilderness boundary or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25e	N/A
			N	Go to #25d	
		25d Do viable alternatives exist that would situate topographic features between proposed trail and wilderness area or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25e	N/A
			N	Go to #25e	
		25e Does proposal include trails on or adjacent to established cc ski trails?	Y	Go to #25f	N/A
			N	Go to #26	
		25f Are there viable alts. that would avoid placement of proposed trails on or adjacent to cc ski trails?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #26	N/A
			N	Go to #26	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
	Signing	26 Has signing program been established that would warn snowmobilers of shared use areas, wilderness boundaries, intersections, etc?	Y	Go to #27	YES See Comment
			N	Stipulate - Go to #27	
	Speed Limits	27 Does proposed trail go through residential areas of particular sensitivity?	Y	Go to #27a	NO
			N	Go to #28	
		27a Has applicant established appropriate speed limits or hourly restrictions in areas of sensitivity?	Y	Go to #28	N/A
			N	Stipulate - Go to #28	
		28 Has applicant proposed public awareness plan that includes consideration for residential and sensitive areas?	Y	Go to #29	YES
			N	Stipulate - Go to #29	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle I)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
Issue 8 Law Enforcement		29 Has applicant provided law enforcement report from DFW&P Region Warden Captain and/or land managing agency identifying documented snowmobile trespass on private lands and/or wilderness areas caused by adjoining or nearby funded trail and proposal for addressing such violations?	Y	Go to #30	YES See Comment
			N	Stipulate - Go to #30	
Issue 10 Changes in Aesthetic Values	Litter Remediation	30 Has applicant included a trash receptacle location, placement and management strategy?	Y	Go to #30a	NO See Comment
			N	Stipulate - Go to #30a	
		30a Has applicant proposed "pack-it-in pack-it-out" type signing strategy?	Y	Go to #30b	YES See Comment
			N	Stipulate - Go to #30b	
	Trail Location Strategies	30b Has applicant satisfied questions 25-29?	Y	Go to #31	YES
			N	Go to #25	

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM**

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	✓
		31	Have all appropriate boxes in right-hand column been checked?	Y	Env. considerations approved	YES
				N	Take appropriate actions until all boxes are checked	

BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS
EA CHECKLIST REVIEW COMMENTS

- 10 & 10a No significant impact due to sufficient snowpack.
- 15e The NRIS lists three sensitive species of wildlife in the area of the proposal. These are listed as the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, Boreal Owl, and Great Gray Owl.
- 15f The groomed trail crosses all streams on existing bridges thereby avoiding disturbance to the stream bed or banks. The Boreal Owl normally winters in open valley and low lands. Winter habitat for the Great Grey Owl is similar to the Boreal Owl. Groomed trails are at a higher elevation and are not in direct conflict with these two owls.
- 16 Trails are not in any known ungulant winter range.
- 19e The NRIS lists two sensitive species of vegetation in the area of the proposal. These are listed as the Alpine - Nerved Sedge and the Fan - Leaved Fleabane. No impacts are expected on these plants, due to not being found on established roads or trails.
- 21 The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance and to promote desirable vegetation protection and control of noxious weeds in the groomed trail system. To protect the desirable vegetation the PAC will perform the following:
- Keep snowmobilers aware of the importance of protecting desirable vegetation.
- 22 The club sponsors one to two poker runs each year on the designated groomed trails.
- 22a The total number of participants to these events normally average 20 to 30 riders.
- 22b The Livingston Big Sky Snowriders present, several times a year, a very thorough Snowmobile Safety Courses in conjunction with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
- 22c All volunteer support for events.
- 24a All groomed trail routs are signed with reflective signs indicating designated trail, trail junction, bridges, and cattle guards.
- 24d Signing is placed at points were groomed trails either cross or are adjacent to private property.

- 25a One groomed trail terminate three miles from the A/B wilderness boundary.
- 25b Topography prohibits any wilderness incursion by snowmobiles from the above mentioned trail.
- 26 Signing has been place at the wilderness boundary to advise the public of the land designation beyond that point.
- 28 Text will be incorporated into future trail maps to identify wilderness boundary. Public will be encouraged to respect areas of wilderness designation.
- 29 According to the Gallatin National Forest enforcement report for the 95/96 snowmobiling season there were no violation or citations written for incursions into the A/B wilderness on the Livingston Ranger District.
- 30 Placing litter receptacles at trailheads would not be conducive with adequate litter pick-up.
- 30a Pack-in/Pack-out signing will be incorporated into the sign plan. Additionally, text will be added to any new trail maps encouraging the public to keep their public lands clean and litter free.

ATTACHMENT: A

**GROOMING OPERATIONS
PLAN**

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING OPERATIONS PLAN

The Big Sky Snowriders Snowmobile Club plans on providing groomed trails in the areas listed below on the following schedule, from 12/1, 1996 to 3/30, 1997:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>When & How Often Groomed</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Rock Creek	5 miles	Every other week	#1
Cotton Wood Cr.	15 miles	Every other week	#2
Shields Loop	25 miles	Every 3 to 4 weeks	#3
Mill Creek	12 miles	Two times a season	#4

-

(Add attached sheet if needed.)

This schedule is subject to budget, weather, and equipment breakdowns.

Assurances:

We shall remove, lessen, or sign known and potential hazards in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and affected landowners. Directional and informational signs shall also be provided according to need and budget availability. We will have a safety plan detailing education efforts, search and rescue, accident reporting and follow-up procedures developed prior to any trail grooming.

Appendix B

Required Licenses, Leases, Permits, Clearances, Etc.

Project Agreement

Multi-Party Agreement: Land Owner Permission

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Wildlife Clearance

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Land Manager Permission

Private Landowner: Land Owner Permission

Natural Resource Information System

SNOWMOBILE PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS PROPOSAL requests an agreement be established between the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, an agency of the State of Montana, hereinafter called "Department," and (club name) BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS hereinafter called "the club."

WITNESSETH:

RECITALS

1. Montana statutes earmark a portion of gasoline taxes and snowmobile registration decal fees for snowmobile facility operation, maintenance and development for public use at no cost to the public.
2. Sufficient funds have accrued in the snowmobile earmarked revenue account to fund this proposal.
3. The Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is responsible for the administration of this program.
4. The Parks Division desires to seek means of funding snowmobile facilities maintenance projects, and to seek baseline information for snowmobile operations projects.
5. The Club is an entity in the immediate vicinity of the trails to be maintained and is desirous of seeing trails maintained for snowmobilers.
6. Both parties hereto desire to maintain trails for snowmobile use on land shown on a map submitted as a supplement to this application, designated Attachment "B", and
7. As demonstrated by the attached written statements, the landowner(s) of affected property(ies) has/have granted permission to the Club to carry out the proposal on affected property.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, conditions, and terms hereinafter set forth, the Club proposes:

1. That Attachment "B" is an accurate depiction of the areas covered by this proposal.
2. That the Club will perform the following activities and duties:
 - A. Utilize dollars granted for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails detailed in Attachment "B". This maintenance shall be conducted as conditions required during the agreement period.

- B. Permit inspection of the project by the Department or its employees or agents at any and all reasonable times during the term of the agreement.
 - C. Indemnify and save harmless the State and the Department from all claims from injuries or damages arising or growing out of the operations performed under any resulting agreement.
 - D. Will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin in the use of any property or facility maintained pursuant to any resulting agreement.
 - E. Fully comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, etc. It shall be the Club's responsibility to familiarize itself with the relevant laws, rules, regulations, etc.
 - F. Require that in all subcontracts let in fulfilling any resulting agreement, preference must be given to the employment of bona fide Montana residents at the prevailing rate of wages applicable to the county or locality in which the work is being performed (section 18-2-401, et. seq., MCA).
 - G. Provide the Department with documentation of actual and necessary expenses incurred in trail maintenance in the form and upon the dates requested; all such documentation will be submitted by May 1 of the contract period. The Club agrees to allow and permit legislative or department auditors access to its records for the purpose of determining that this grant is administered in accordance with grant terms and conditions as set forth in any resulting agreement.
4. Agrees that any contract resulting from this proposal shall be with the club, as an independent contractor and does not establish an employer-employee relationship between the Department and the Club or any person employed by the Club for any purpose. In this regard, the Club agrees:
- A. To pay all required state, federal or local taxes, fees, including unemployment insurance and workers' compensation insurance or other assessments related to employment of any person or individual employed by the Club as necessary in fulfillment of this contract.

B. To abide by the State Prevailing Wage Rate - Section 18-2-406 MCA, which provides that contractors, sub-contractors and employees who are performing services under public works contracts as provided in Part 4, MCA shall post in a prominent and accessible site on the project or work area, not later than the first day of work, a legible statement of all wages to be paid to the employees on such site or work area.

5. Agrees that the Department may unilaterally terminate any contract resulting from this proposal upon refusal by the Club to allow access to records necessary to carry out the legislative audit and analysis function set forth in Title V, Chapters 12 and 13, MCA.
6. Agrees that venue will be in Lewis and Clark County should any legal action arise from this proposal or any contract issued in whole or in part therefrom.
7. Agrees that it is understood that a failure to comply with any of the provisions listed above can result in a rejection of this proposal and/or the voiding of any resulting contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, conditions, and terms hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. The period covered by this agreement will begin July 1, (1996) and will continue in effect until June 30, (1997).
2. This agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of all parties by issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by all parties.
3. The rights and obligations of any part to this agreement may be terminated upon giving thirty (30) days notice by the party.
4. The agreement accepts the Snowmobile Project Proposal/ Application and becomes part of the agreement.

BY: CLUB

Charles W. Smith
President

4/22/96

Date

Matthew J. Furbush
Secretary

4/22/96
Date

BY: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

5-28-96

Date

DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT

Between

Big Sky Snowriders SNOWMOBILE CLUB

and

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

and

Gallatin NATIONAL FOREST - USDA FOREST SERVICE

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between the Big Sky Snowriders Snowmobile Club, a non-profit organization in the State of Montana, ("the Club"), and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, State of Montana, ("the Department"), and the Gallatin National Forest, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, ("the Forest Service"), collectively, ("the Cooperators") under the provisions of Montana, Code 23, Chapter 2, and the Acts of June 30, 1914 (16 USC 498) and June 12, 1960, (16 USC 530),

WITNESSETH:

RECITALS

1. The Forest Service is responsible for the National Forests' recreation resources and their being available for public use and enjoyment, and
2. Managed and maintained snowmobile trails in the vicinity of Rock creek south Mill Creek, Shields River on the Livingston Ranger District, need to be groomed to provide snowmobilers with a safer and more enjoyable recreation experience, and
3. The Club is interested in assisting in the maintenance and operation of snowmobile facilities and activities on the land administered by the Forest Service, for use by Club members as well as the general public, and
4. The Department controls State funds earmarked for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails and desires to cooperate with the Forest Service and the Club in the development and maintenance of snowmobile facilities on the land administered by the Forest Service, and
5. The general public will benefit from the three parties cooperating in the providing for these recreation facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties here to agree as follows:

A. THE CLUB SHALL:

1. Meet with the Department to develop an Annual Operating Plan showing grooming routes, schedules, signing and club officers. Provide copies to the Department, and in turn the Department shall provide copies to the Forest Service by May 1 of each year.

2. Erect at the trailhead certain signs as needed and store these signs in the off season. Necessary signs will be detailed in the Annual Operating Plan. Signs approved by the Department shall be purchased by the Department and installed by the Club.

3. Provide and erect at strategic points along the snowmobile trails, certain signs showing trail locations, lengths, and difficulty; and shall erect at the parking area or trailhead a sign which states that the project is funded by state gasoline tax refunds and snowmobile registration decal fees and lists the cooperators. Signs approved by the Department will be purchased by the Department and installed by the Club.

4. Perform such trail maintenance and marking as may be necessary to keep the trails safe and usable.

5. Provide trail grooming once a week, more or less, depending upon the suitability of snow conditions for snowmobiling and availability of funds in their snowmobile trail grooming budget.

6. Bill the Department at the end of each grooming month for costs of grooming. The Club may request an advance of funds by writing the Department at least two weeks prior to need for funds. Total of advances and bills shall not exceed the annual grant amount for any snow season. The Club shall itemize all expenditures and include documentation as required by the Department.

7. Meet annually or more often with the other parties to this agreement to coordinate activities pursuant to this agreement.

8. Hold the Department and Forest Service harmless from and indemnify them from and against all liability for injuries to or death of persons or damage to property arising from the negligent or reckless acts of its employees or agents in carrying out the terms of this agreement.

B. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Allow its lands, in the areas indicated on the attached maps, to be used for snowmobiling.

2. Allow the Club, upon review and approval by the Forest

Service and the Department of detailed annual operating plans, to improve trails by machine grading, cutting brush and small timber, minor bridge construction and other improvements as may be necessary.

3. Meet annually or more often with other parties to this agreement for the purpose of coordinating activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement.

4. When and if funds are available, make plastic blazes available to the Club for trail marking.

C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1. Reimburse the Club for the costs it incurs for grooming trails not to exceed the annual grant amount per snow season. Costs shall be based upon rates established through negotiation with local contractors by the Club. The Department will have no liability for charges in excess of the annual grant amount per snow season, unless, within the sole discretion of the Department, it is determined that sufficient additional funds exist in the Snowmobile Trail Grooming Account. If funds are available in that account, grooming costs may be reimbursed after the maximum charge of the annual grant amount has been incurred by the Club, provided, however, that such reimbursement shall be at the sole discretion of the Department.

2. Monitor the Club for performance standards and safety, and periodically report to the Forest Service the adequacy of Club performance.

3. Meet annually or more often with the other parties to this agreement for the purpose of coordinating activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement.

4. Maintain and enforce guidelines of grooming according to USDA FSH 2309.18 Trails Handbook and appropriate Department standards.

5. An Annual Plan of Operation will be presented to the Forest Service by the Department for its approval prior to May 1 of each year.

D. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

1. Any proposed development or betterment projects will be jointly agreed to by the Cooperators prior to their initiation.

2. Nothing herein shall be construed as binding the Cooperators for the payment of money beyond the current fiscal year unless a financial plan for subsequent years has been approved by the Cooperators.

3. No contributions herein provided for shall entitle the Club or the Department to any share or interest in the said facilities

other than the right to use the same under the regulations of the Forest Service. All improvements shall be and remain the property of the United States.

4. Permission to work on National Forest Lands under the terms of this Agreement do not in any way convey to the Club or the Department, their officials, or any person or persons working with the Forest Service in the performance of said work, employee status that would extend to them the benefits of the Federal Employees Compensation Act, as amended.

5. The snowmobile trails and facilities will be open to the general public. The Club and the Department will in no way control access to or use of the trails or improvements.

6. No member of, or delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

7. Cooperators will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and in accordance with Title VI of that Act, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, handicap, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Cooperators receive Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement.

8. The Club and the Department shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of National Forest lands under this Agreement, providing such damage to life or property is due to the negligent acts or omissions of the Club or Department.

9. This Agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of all parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by all parties.

10. The rights and obligations of any party to this agreement may be terminated upon the giving of thirty (30) days written notice by that party. Unless terminated by written notice, this Agreement will remain in force indefinitely.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below.

x Gallatin NATIONAL FOREST

BY [Signature]

TITLE Acting District Ranger

DATE May 4, 1993

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH,
WILDLIFE AND PARKS

BY [Signature]

TITLE Reg. Sup.

DATE 5/11/93

Big Sky snowriders SNOWMOBILE CLUB

BY Marvin Dynneson

TITLE President

DATE 4/20/93

362.8

SNOWMOBILE GROOMING PROGRAM

Regional Wildlife Clearance

- ☐ Trail expansion (attach map highlighting expansion)
- ☐ New trail system (attach map highlighting trail system)

Snowmobile Club

Are there any wildlife concerns?

YES

NO

(SEE Attached Memo)

☐☒

If yes:

Species _____

(list)

1. Winter range _____

(area)

2. Travel corridor _____

3. Other _____

Suggested alternate route _____

Other mitigation measures (such as signing; trail restrictions, etc.)

☒

Approved with above-mentioned mitigation measures

☐

Not approved as submitted

Tom Lemke

4/9/96

Regional Wildlife Biologist
Date

Date

Regional Parks Manager

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Ray Heagney
FROM : Tom Lemke

DATE: 4/9/96

SUBJECT : EA for Trails Maintained by Livingston Snowmobile Club

Attached you will find a Wildlife Clearance Form for the Livingston Area Trails. In addition to the form I would like to take a minute to describe existing winter wildlife use in the vicinity of the trails.

None of the Livingston trails are on major elk or deer winter ranges. The Rock Creek trail comes as close as any to significant elk and mule deer winter range. Significant elk and deer use occurs just north of the lower Rock Creek Trail on the north side of Rock Creek between Fisher and Stoughton Creek. If snowmobilers stay on the trail there should be no adverse effects to wintering big game.

Mill Creek, Rock Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Upper Shields River trails all occur within moose winter range habitat. Moose can be expected to cross or use these groomed trails. Moose densities are not high, but some contact is inevitable. Conscientious snowbilers should allow moose to proceed without attempting to approach them for a closer look. Snowmobile use should be restricted largely to established trails.

Predators, furbearers and rodents (coyotes, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, wolverine, marten, weasels, pine squirrels, snowshoe hares, mice) are also likely to be found on or near snowmobile trails. Much of the use will be nocturnal.

In the Livingston area, snowmobile use, if confined to established trails, should be within the tolerance of local wildlife populations and should not pose a significant impact to wildlife.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Gallatin NF

Livingston Ranger District
5242 Highway 89 South
Livingston, MT 59047-9133

Reply to: 2350

Date: January 10, 1997

Mr. Clark Smith
Big Sky Snowriders
155 Canyon View Drive
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Clark:

I have reviewed the updated Snowmobile Trail Grooming Operations Plan you submitted on January 2, 1997. Under the terms of the Development and Operating Agreement dated May 4, 1993, the Big Sky Snowriders Snowmobile Club is hereby authorized to coordinate with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to perform grooming operations on Rock Creek South, Mill Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Shields River drainages (all in Park County) of the Gallatin National Forest. This authorization is for the 1996-1997 winter season only.

As discussed with you, the grooming of the Rock Creek South Road is authorized **ONLY** for that portion of the road that lies in Park County. No grooming is authorized for that portion of the road that lies in Gallatin County.

I am looking forward to meeting with you and other club members at one of your regularly scheduled meetings in the near future.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. KRACHT
Acting District Ranger

cc: R.Heagney - MDFW&P's
Supervisor's Office, K.Schlenker



December 24, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

We grant permission for the use of a portion of our property on Cottonwood Bench Rd., Section 4, 2 North, 10 East, specifically the Northeast corner of the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 between the ditch and the property line (County road) to be used as a parking area for snowmobiles and skiers. This area is not to be used by hunters, 4-wheelers or any other activity not related to snowmobiling or skiing.

This courtesy in no way gives permission for this parcel to become a permanent parking area or allow for an easement of any kind.

We would request that parking area be signed and kept clean at all times.

The only stipulation to this agreement is that we would like to be put under the State of Montana's liability insurance program, so as the landowner we will not be held liable for any accident or any other unforeseen events that should occur on our property.

This agreement to be reviewed annually.

Steve W. Smith
President, Big Sky Snowmobilers

Garth O'Neil V.P.
Box 365 Livingston MT.
Address

Alfred Sasse *Eva Sasse*
Alfred Sasse
1530 Mt. Baldy Dr.
Livingston, MT
406 222-1914

Garth Sasser *Nancy Sasser*
Garth Sasser
2174 Showalter Rd.
Moscow, Ida. 83843
208 882-7786

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Species of Special Concern: Livingston Snowmobile Trails

Ref.	Name/Common Name	G Rank	S Rank	USESA	USFS	Township-Range-Sec.		County(ies)
050	AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4		SENSITIVE	003N010E	24	Park
028	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	003N010E	10	Park
029	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	003N010E	15	Park
051	AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4		SENSITIVE	003N011E	8	Park
006	ERIGERON FLABELLIFOLIUS FAN-LEAVED FLEABANE	G3G4	S3			004N011E	30	Park
001	STRIX NEBULOSA GREAT GRAY OWL	G5	S3			005N010E	05	Meagher
011	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	005N011E 005N010E	18 24	Meagher; Park
027	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	006S005E	36	Gallatin
005	CAREX NEUROPHORA ALPINE-NERVED SEDGE	G4	S2			006S011E	02	Park
049	AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4		SENSITIVE	007S005E	24	Gallatin
007	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	007S007E	19	Park
	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	007S007E	06	Park
008	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI BOUVIERI YELLOWSTONE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T2	S2		SENSITIVE	008S006E 008S005E	09 24	Park
001	URSUS ARCTOS HORRIBILIS GRIZZLY BEAR	G4T3	S1S2	LT	THREATENED	009S015E 009S016E 009S017E 009S018E 008S018E	00 00 00 00 00	Carbon; Park

14 Records listed.

This map displays the Livingston, Bozeman, and Townsend area in Montana. Key features include:

- Geographic Labels:** 'Big Timber' at the top, 'Livingston' in the center, 'Bozeman' at the bottom, and 'Townsend' on the left.
- Boundaries:** County boundaries are shown as thin solid lines. Major roads are indicated by thicker solid lines.
- Land Use:** The map uses different shades of gray to represent various land use patterns, including urban areas and agricultural fields.
- Highlighted Regions:**
 - A large dashed rectangle on the left side, containing two smaller solid rectangles, each with two black diamonds.
 - A dashed rectangle on the right side, containing a solid rectangle with a black diamond.
 - A dashed rectangle at the bottom right, containing a solid rectangle with four black diamonds.

October 08, 1996

Appendix C

Enforcement Report and Plan

&

Avalanche Awareness Plan

DATE: 06/17/96

TIME: 12:11

[LAW MASTER FILE]

PAGE: 2

LAWS AND REGULATIONS VIOLATION STATISTICS
10/95 THRU 06/96

USFS
Livingston

11:38 No.001 P.08
REGION : 01
FOREST : 11-GALLATIN N F
DISTRICT: 02-LIVINGSTON R D

OFFENSE CODE
1858 - *Survey mark removed*
2615A - *unauthorized use of vehicle*
2616A - *Unauthorized damage*
DISTRICT TOTAL

---INCIDENT REPORT---		---VIOLATION NOTICE---	
W/N	INCIDENT	M/A	COLLATERAL
0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	3	0	0
DISTRICT TOTAL		TOTAL	
		3	

(BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS SNOWMOBILE) ENFORCEMENT PLAN

This plan integrates six enforcement strategies to generate compliance with public lands' travel restriction and state snowmobile regulations. Execution of these strategies will be a cooperative effort between enforcement agents from the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), and counties. These strategies are intended to meet each agency's enforcement mission and objectives for resource protection and public safety.

- ▶ The initial approach for enforcing travel restrictions is the signing of trailheads. Prominently posted trailhead information and maps will define travel restrictions on lands adjacent to established groomed trail systems. The trail grooming sponsor will, with the assistance from the land managing agency, post the travel restriction regulations.
- ▶ Local motorized clubs will annually inform their membership of travel restrictions next to established and maintained trail systems. Club members will be encouraged to disseminate the information to visiting backcountry users.
- ▶ To regularly ascertain the highest concentration of use; random trail patrols will occur. Trail safety will be encouraged through public contacts during patrols.
- ▶ Enforcement efforts will target locations where there is motorized intrusions into restricted travel areas, such as tree plantations. Speed limit signing and patrols will be made.
- ▶ Backcountry use will be monitored through coordination of interagency enforcement personnel. FWP and Forest Service staff will share information and combine efforts to conduct saturation enforcement activities at known high use locations and during high use periods. Normally these periods are weekends, holidays and after new snow occurrences.

Trail patrols will be done on days when environmental conditions and/or budgets allow. Safety of agency personnel will also be a determining factor when patrols will occur. Rapidly changing environmental conditions and potential avalanche hazards must be considered before conducting patrols.

AVALANCHE AWARENESS PLAN

Although certain conditions increase their chance of occurring, avalanches are unpredictable and can occur at any time or on terrain with little slope. The club will take an integrated approach to provide avalanche awareness to club members and the general winter back country user.

Public awareness of avalanches will be promoted through club safety meetings, club sponsored activities and safety training courses held for interested persons in the local community and area. Trail grooming performed by snowmobile clubs will practice avoidance procedures in areas of avalanche potential.

Winter back country users will be encouraged not to assume there is no danger or hazards such as avalanches or rapid changes in weather conditions. It will be recommended that back country users assess and relate outdoor conditions and risks to personal abilities.

It is expected that regardless of the winter back country activity, participants in those activities accept the potential risks and hazards associated with the back country.

Snowpack conditions can change rapidly. Back country users will also be encouraged too, when available to contact the local avalanche advisory for current snowpack conditions.

Avalanche, safe snowmobiling practices and back country literature will be made available, for free, to the general recreating public through club sponsored safety and training programs or from public resource agencies.

The club in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and U.S. Forest Service will promote safe, ethical and responsible behavior through sponsored snowmobile safety and educational programs.

APPENDIX D

PUBLIC AWARENESS PLAN

BIG SKY SNOWRIDERS PUBLIC AWARENESS PLAN

ISSUE 2 - AIR QUALITY

Air quality is a very important issue as we use our trails. There are many atmosphere changes with the different weather conditions. This plan is to assist the Club in educating the public to promote better air quality in Livingston and on our trail system. This includes but is not limited to negative effects such as cold starts, older model engines, past due tune-ups, improper jetting and injector adjustments. The Club will work to minimize pollution within the trail system. The following, as a minimum, will be accomplished to keep the public informed on a continuing basis:

- a. **SIGNS:** No idling and minimize cold starts.
- b. **WORK SHOPS:** Air quality included in Club meetings, poker runs, maps and snowmobile maintenance workshops.
- c. **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements in newsletters.
- d. **BILL BOARDS:** Signs at local snowmobile dealers, and parking lots.

ISSUE 3 - TOPOGRAPHY, SOILS, HYDROLOGY

To properly manage a snowmobile trail system, understanding the physical features "Elevation of the Terrain," loose surface materials of the earth, soils, and the science of properties, distribution, quality, and movement of water "hydrology" should be known.

The snowmobile season for the Livingston Trail System is December 1 through April 1. Normally during the snowmobile season there are no trails completely bare of snow. Snowmobilers use the non-melted portion of the trail or find an alternate route around the bare area.

All trails with streams have bridges. Signs will be placed in sensitive locations as well as comments on the trail map. Informational signing "Please stay on Groomed Snowmobile Trail" in this area and "Please use bridge" signs in proper locations. Should unusual snow cover require routing changes these changes shall be made and signed during the duration of their use until snowcover returns to normal.

Alternative trailheads will be advertised on an as needed basis in order to avoid conflicts.

ISSUE 4 - WILDLIFE

In that responsible snowmobiling requires that animals be left as undisturbed as possible during the wintering season when their resources and even their ultimate survival may require the least amount of energy expenditure as possible; snowmobilers will be encouraged to look from a distance at all wildlife. Interpretive signing in ungulate wintering areas will reflect this sediment as well as map markings and potentially future trail hosts. It is widely recognized that any ungulate-snowmobile confrontation which occurs on a groomed trail is usually very detrimental to the snowmobiler and is to be avoided whenever possible. Wildlife awareness signs will be located in those areas of lower elevation where groomed trails are near ungulate winter use, as identified by the area biologist. A duplication of the wildlife harassment laws will appear on the next updated trail map.

ISSUE 5 - VEGETATION

The primary vegetation of the snowmobile trail area is trees, shrubs, grasses and forbes. Protection of the desirable vegetation growing along the snowmobile trail system and adjoining area is a primary goal.

The sensitive plant species list and map for the Livingston area snowmobile trail system was obtained from the Montana Natural Heritage Program. The following plants were indicated to be in some sections of land on which the trail system is located:

- I. Fan-Leaved Fleabane and Alpine - Nerged Sedge has state S2 - S3 rank of imperiled or very rare.

The State of Montana has infestations of many species of noxious weeds which have infested many areas of the state and county. To stop noxious weed infestations the Club will, as a minimum, perform the following:

1. Monitor trails, access areas and parking lots yearly for noxious weeds.
2. Promote washing of sleds before transporting them to another area.
3. Report new infestation points found on trail and trailhead areas.
4. Promote weed control program and vegetation protection through signing, newsletters, public meetings.

ISSUE 6 - SOCIOECONOMIC

Economic impact of the snowmobile program has always been important. Promotion of all events will be coordinated with the Club and the Forest Service District Office. The following are guidelines will be followed:

- a. Obtain permits as required.
- b. Groom for safety as well as smooth trails.
- c. Design trail and facility changes.
- d. Sign as necessary, for information and safety.

ISSUE 7 - CULTURAL

In culturally affected areas snowmobilers will be admonished to take only pictures and memories with them and leave only tracks in the snow cover behind them. The removal of items (souvenirs) or desecration of any archaeological area will be strongly discouraged. Interpretive signing and trail rerouting will occur as needed to protect these valuable resources.

ISSUE 8 - SAFETY/PRIVATE PROPERTY

Safety is a primary concern of the Livingston Snowmobile Club. There are safety tips in the Livingston Area Snowmobile Trail Map. Protection of private property is very important. Communicating with the private landowners is necessary to have a good working relationship between the landowners and the Club.

The Club with the Safety Chairperson will as a minimum:

1. Have a safety tip or program for every Club meeting.
2. Proper signing of the snowmobile head and trails to increase snowmobile safety and protect private property. Have Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) personnel conduct their "Signing Educational Program" for Signing Committee and Club members.
3. Sign hazardous conditions (permanent ones and short term) on trails.
4. Cooperate with law enforcement officials and the FW&P personnel to assure compliance with regulatory signs and laws.
5. Promote awareness of safety rules and guides as published by FWP and land agencies for the safety of all users.
6. Safety checks of snowmobile routes before any special event and provide special markers as necessary.
7. Have an Avalanche Education Program. Currently, the Club has avalanche probing equipment and trained individuals for avalanche rescue.
8. Include private property awareness and hazards of snowmobile trails through use of: signing, Club publications.
9. The groomer has proper lights and flashing lights for safety. The groomer is also equipped with a Groomer Warning Beacon to warn snowmobilers that grooming equipment is nearby to snowmobilers having a communicator.

